

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A configurable portable device comprising:
 - 2 a sensing unit configured and arranged to collect biometric data from a user of the portable device;
 - 4 a token producer configured and arranged to produce a user identification token based on the biometric data;
 - 6 an access terminal configured and arranged to transmit the user identification token to a network over a wireless communications link and to receive configuration information corresponding to the user identification token from the network; and
 - 10 configuration information storage configured and arranged to retrievably store the configuration information,
 - 12 wherein a configuration of the portable device is determined at least in part by a portion of the configuration information.
2. The configurable portable device according to claim 1, wherein
 - 2 one among a plurality of number assignment modules of the portable device is selected by the configuration information.
3. A method of configuring a portable device, said method
 - 2 comprising:
 - sensing user-identifying information from a user of the portable device;
 - 4 producing a user identification token based on the user-identifying information;

6 transmitting the user identification token over a wireless communications
link; and

8 receiving a set of configuration information corresponding to the user
identification token.

4. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim 3,
2 wherein sensing user-identifying information includes collecting biometric data.

5. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim 4,
2 wherein collecting biometric data includes collecting fingerprint data.

6. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim 4,
2 wherein collecting biometric data includes collecting voice data.

7. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim 3,
2 wherein transmitting the user identification token comprises transmitting the
user identification token over a wireless communications link associated with a
4 cellular network for wireless communications.

8. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim 3,
2 further comprising selecting one among a plurality of number assignment
modules of the portable device according to the set of configuration information.

9. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim 3,
2 further comprising configuring an operation of the portable device according to
the set of configuration information.

10. A method of configuring a portable device, said method
2 comprising:
receiving a user identification token over a wireless communications link;
4 detecting a correspondence between the user identification token and
one among a plurality of templates;
6 retrieving a set of configuration information that corresponds to the
template; and
8 transmitting at least a portion of the set of configuration information to the
portable device.

11. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim
2 10, wherein the user identification token includes biometric data.

12. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim
2 11, wherein the user identification token includes fingerprint data.

13. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim
2 11, wherein the user identification token includes voice data.

14. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim
2 10, wherein detecting a correspondence between the user identification token

and one among a plurality of templates comprises extracting a set of features
4 from the user identification token.

15. The method of configuring a portable device according to claim
2 10, further comprising receiving a device identification token,
wherein the at least a portion of the set of configuration information
4 corresponds to the device identification token.

16. A configurable portable device comprising:
2 a sensing unit configured and arranged to sense user-specific
information from a user of the portable device;
4 a token producer configured and arranged to produce a user
identification token based on the user-specific information;
6 an access terminal configured and arranged to transmit the user
identification token to a network over a wireless communications link and to
8 receive configuration information corresponding to the user identification token
from the network; and
10 configuration information storage configured and arranged to retrievably
store the configuration information,
12 wherein a user-selectable operation of the portable device is determined
at least in part by a portion of the configuration information.

17. The configurable portable device according to claim 16, wherein
2 the sensing unit is configured and arranged to collect biometric data from a
user.

18. The configurable portable device according to claim 17, wherein
2 the sensing unit is configured and arranged to collect fingerprint data.

19. The configurable portable device according to claim 17, wherein
2 the sensing unit is configured and arranged to collect voice data.

20. The configurable portable device according to claim 16, wherein
2 the access terminal is configured and arranged to transmit the user identification
token over a wireless communications link associated with a cellular network for
4 wireless communications.

21. The configurable portable device according to claim 16, further
2 comprising a plurality of number assignment modules,
wherein the set of configuration information indicates a selected one
4 among the number assignment modules.

22. The configurable portable device according to claim 16, further
2 comprising a display interface,
wherein a configuration of the display interface is determined by the set
4 of configuration information.

23. A network comprising:
2 an access network configured and arranged to receive a user
identification token from a portable device;

- 4 a template database configured and arranged to store a plurality of user
templates;
- 6 a configuration information database configured and arranged to
retrievably store a plurality of sets of configuration information, each set
- 8 corresponding to one among the user templates; and
- a pattern matcher coupled to the access network and configured and
- 10 arranged to detect a correspondence between the user identification token and
one among the plurality of user templates and to retrieve the set of configuration
- 12 information corresponding to the user template.

24. The network according to claim 23, wherein the pattern matcher is

2 configured and arranged to detect a correspondence between biometric data of
the user identification token and one among the plurality of user templates.

25. The network according to claim 24, wherein the pattern matcher is

2 configured and arranged to detect a correspondence between fingerprint data of
the user identification token and one among the plurality of user templates.

26. The network according to claim 24, wherein the pattern matcher is

2 configured and arranged to detect a correspondence between voice data of the
user identification token and one among the plurality of user templates.

27. The network according to claim 23, wherein the pattern matcher is

2 configured and arranged to extract a set of features from the user identification

token and to detect a correspondence between the set of features and the one
4 among the plurality of user templates.

28. The network according to claim 23, wherein the access network is
2 further configured and arranged to receive a device identification token from the
portable device and to transmit a set of configuration information corresponding
4 to the device identification token.